

USSN: 10/825,380
Attorney Docket No.: 2003B043A
Preliminary Amendment dated December 15, 2005
Response to Interview of December 13, 2005

REMARKS

Interview Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the personal interview given on December 13, 2005. Applicants address the issues discussed at the interview in the Amendments above and the Remarks below.

Support in Specification

The Amendment to claim 1 is supported in the specification in, among other places, the process descriptions on pages 160-166.

Claim 57 is written in the "step for" form of § 112, paragraph 6. It should thus be interpreted to include the acts described throughout the specification and equivalents thereof. Support for claim 57 is found in the original application in, *inter alia*, original claim 1, the Summary on pages 5 and 6 of the originally filed application, as well as the process descriptions on pages 160-166.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the limitations previously recited and remove any confusion as to the scope of the claim. Particularly, the Examiner stated that the previous wording of the claim left open the possibility that all reaction zones could contain the same catalyst (*e.g.*, all contain the first catalyst component to the exclusion of the second catalyst component or vice versa). Applicants believe the current amendment removes this confusion. Particularly, wherein clauses (a) and (b) recited in claim 1¹ (reproduced in the footnote below) make it clear that the first catalyst zone is present in at least one reaction zone and that the second catalyst component is present in at least one zone. Thus, Applicants have removed the possibility that every reaction zone will contain the same catalyst to the exclusion of the other.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Applicants thank the Examiner for agreeing to withdraw her rejection over U.S. Patent No. 5,516,848.

Miscellaneous

Applicants believe they have now addressed all of the Examiner's outstanding issues and that the current claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and

¹ (a) the first catalyst component is present in at least one reaction zone;
(b) second catalyst component is present in at least one zone selected from the group consisting of the second reaction zone and the third reaction zone; and

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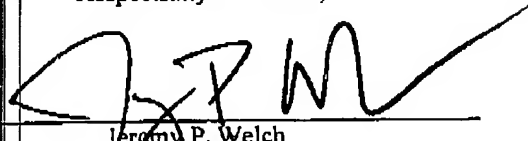
allowance of the currently pending claims. If the Examiner believes that it would expedite prosecution of the instant application, she is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney at her convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

December 15, 2005

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